

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-17, 19-25, 28-48 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A version of all pending claims is found at pages 2-11. Claims 2, 3, 18, 26, 27 and 49-54 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 4, 5, 7-17, 19, 25, 28, 42 and 48 have been amended herein. Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the indication, on page 11 of the Office Action dated April 19, 2005, that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 19, 25, 28, 42 and 48 have been amended to comport with the Examiner's indication, and it is believed that independent claims 1, 19, 25, 28, 42 and 48 and associated dependent claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

In addition, it should be noted that applicants' representative intends to file a continuation application to pursue the original and/or rejected claims.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-17 and 19-54 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-17 and 19-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Harkins, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,513,126). Reversal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments, incorporating the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner, to independent claims 1, 19, 25, 28, 42 and 48.

II. Failure of Information Disclosure Statements to Comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)

The information disclosure statements filed February 13, 2002 and May 28, 2003 failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited non-patent literature publication. Copies of the non-patent literature documents listed in the information disclosure statements are provided herewith.

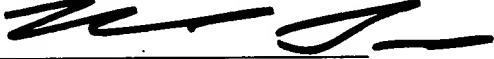
CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any additional fees may be due and/or are not covered by the credit card, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP221USA].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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